

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
APRIL 2, 2019**

**ITEM 3**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO MULTI-YEAR CONTRACTS TO CONTINUE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIL AND GAS REGIONAL GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM.

**DISCUSSION**

California Water Code section 10783 (Senate Bill 4, Pavley, Statutes of 2013) required the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to implement a Regional Groundwater Monitoring Program (Regional Monitoring Program) to assess potential impacts from well stimulation (includes hydraulic fracturing). The Model Criteria for Groundwater Monitoring in Areas of Oil and Gas Well Stimulation (Model Criteria) was adopted by the State Water Board on July 7, 2015 ([Resolution No. 2015-0047](#)) and includes the criteria for the Regional Monitoring Program.

The Regional Monitoring Program is designed to assess the potential effects of well stimulation and other oil and gas development activities on groundwater resources that currently or may in the future have beneficial uses.

The State Water Board previously passed [Resolution No. 2016-0048](#) which authorized multi-year contracts for the Regional Monitoring Program for the fiscal years 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020. The purpose of the current Resolution is to authorize Regional Monitoring Program contracts for the upcoming fiscal years 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024.

**POLICY ISSUE**

No policy issues associated.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The Regional Monitoring Program is funded by the Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Administrative Fund (OGGAF). The revenue sources for this fund are the annual assessments and fees collected from entities that operate oil or gas wells pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 3401(a). Expenditure authority for the Regional Monitoring Program contracts included in the fiscal year 2019-2020 (under current Resolution No. 2016-0048) is expected to be \$7,400,000 upon passage of the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget. Annually thereafter for fiscal years 2020-2024, funding from the OGGAF is expected to be appropriated at approximately the same amount, not to exceed \$7,400,000 per year.

## REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the State Water Board adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Director or designee to enter into multi-year contracts and any amendments thereto, not to exceed \$7,400,000 for each of the fiscal years from 2020-2021 through 2023-2024.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water boards in reaching Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to *enhance and improve accessibility of groundwater quality information*. Approval of this item will further fulfill the Strategic Plan's objectives *by encouraging the creation of organizations or cooperative agreements* that improve accessibility of information by authorizing cooperative agreements with the USGS to continue collection and publication of scientific data in support of the Regional Monitoring Program.